



Commonwealth of Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet

Matthew G. Bevin, Governor

Charles G. Snavely, Secretary

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Energy and Environment Cabinet Announces Middle School Photography Contest for Earth Day 2016 *Annual contest encourages kids to get outside, make connections*

Frankfort, Ky. (Jan. 25, 2016) – The Kentucky Energy and Environment Cabinet (EEC) has kicked off its sixth-annual Capture the Earth digital photography contest for all Kentucky students in grades 6-8.

The Capture the Earth photo contest is open to all Kentucky middle school students. Judges will look for originality and creativity, photo composition, and a brief explanation of how well the photograph celebrates the beauty and diversity of Kentucky and encourages others to care about the state's environment through stewardship and conservation.

"It's important that kids today make more of a connection with the outdoors, which will foster an appreciation for nature and for becoming protectors of our environment," said EEC Secretary Charles Snavely. "I encourage Kentucky's students to explore nature and to document that exploration through photography; you don't have to have a nice camera to take some great shots. Just get out there and have fun."

The contest was initiated in 2011 with 27 entries and has attracted an increasing number of submissions each year. Ninety-two photographs were entered in the 2015 contest.

EEC is accepting entries until 4:30 p.m. Friday, April 8, 2016. The winner will receive two nights' lodging at a Kentucky State Resort Park of the winner's choosing with his or her family. Middle school students may email one photograph as an attachment to kidsphotocontest@ky.gov.

Official rules are available at <http://eec.ky.gov/Pages/earthday.aspx>. For more information, call Ricki Gardenhire at 502-564-5525 or email Ricki.gardenhire@ky.gov.